

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MUSCAT 0885

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OGEN, PINS, MU
SUBJECT: PACE CORPS VOLUNTEERW IN SALALAH

1. PEACE CORPS DIRECTOR LARSON HAS RAISED WITH CHARGE QUESTION OF SAFETY OF PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS IN SALALAH IN WAKE OF RECENT INCIDENTS THERE. ONE OF THE TWO VOLUNTEERS BASED IN SALALAH GOES OUT REGULARLY TO MOUNTAIN VILLAGES WITH MEDICAL TEAMS. THESE BRIEF VISITS ARE ALWAYS IN DAYLIGHT HOURS AND SECURITY IS PROVIDED IF DHOFAR AUTHORITIES CONSIDER IT NECESSARY. THE OTHER VOLUNTEER IN PAST HAS STAYED IN MOUNTAIN VILLAGES FOR EXTENDED PERIODS, INCLUDING OVERNIGHT, TO CHECK ON LOCAL CLINICS. HOWEVER, THIS WORK IS NOT SCHEDULED TO COME UP AGAIN FOR SEVERAL MONTHS, AND THIS VOLUNTEER IN MEANTIME WILL WORK IN SALALAH.

2. LARSON AND CHARGE AGREED THAT RECENT INCIDENTS DO NOT PRESENTLY WARRANT ANY CURTAILMENT OF WORK PATTERNS. TO DO THIS WOULD BE TO OVERREACT. BEFORE VOLUNTEER AGAIN STAYS IN VILLAGE OVERNIGHT, HOWEVER, LARSON WILL CONFER WITH EMBASSY AND GET NEW READING OF SITUATION. MEANWHILE, LARSON WILL REMIND MINISTRY OF HEALTH IN LOW-KEY MANNER THAT WE ASSUME OMANGOV WILL KEEP SAFETY OF VOLUNTEERS ALWAYS IN MIND.

3. DO DEPARTMENT OR PEACE CORPS HAVE FURTHER THOUGHTS ON THIS QUESTION?

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